

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121 (c) as per direction.

Applicant submits a marked copy of the changes to the claims attached hereto.

1. (Currently Amended) A latch for releasably securing a closure member in a frame to a keeper and for opening a predetermined portion of the closure member, the latch comprising:

a housing adapted for being received in an aperture formed in the closure member;

a main pawl slideable in the housing between an open position and a closed position in which the main pawl is engageable with the keeper;

a handle for moving the main pawl from an open position to a closed position, said handle being pivotally attached to said housing and said handle having a handle actuator which engages the main pawl upon pivoting of the handle between a closed position and an open position,

a main pawl biasing device for biasing the main pawl such that said main pawl biasing device biases the main pawl to the closed position;

a secondary pawl slideable in the housing between an open position and a closed position;

a detent device which moves the secondary pawl between an open position and a closed position in which the secondary pawl is engageable with the frame when the detent device is in the closed position, said detent device being pivotally attached to said housing;

whereby pivoting of the detent device to an open position moves the secondary pawl to the open position away from the frame thereby permitting opening of a portion of the closure member when the main pawl is engaged with the keeper or with the frame.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~The latch according to claim 1~~ A latch for releasably securing a closure member in a frame to a keeper and for opening a predetermined portion of the closure member, the latch comprising:

a housing adapted for being received in an aperture formed in the closure member;

a main pawl slideable in the housing between an open position and a closed position in which the main pawl is engageable with the keeper;

a handle for moving the main pawl from an open position to a closed position, said handle being pivotally attached to said housing,

a main pawl biasing device for biasing the main pawl such that said main pawl biasing device biases the main pawl to the closed position;

a secondary pawl slideable in the housing between an open position and a closed position;

a detent device which moves the secondary pawl between an open position and a closed position in which the secondary pawl is engageable with the frame when the detent device is in the closed position, said detent device being pivotally attached to said housing;

wherein the detent device has at least one tower having at least one plunger and a biasing device in the at least one tower which biases the at least one plunger against the housing when the detent device is pivoted;

whereby pivoting of the detent device to an open position moves the secondary pawl to the open position away from the frame thereby permitting opening of a portion of the closure member when the main pawl is engaged with the keeper or with the frame.

3. (Previously Presented) The latch according to claim 2 wherein the detent device has two towers, each of which has a plunger and a plunger biasing device.

4. (Original) The latch according to claim 2 wherein the detent device pivots about 16 degrees from the closed position to the open position and full compression of the at least one plunger occurs at the midpoint of the pivoting of the at least one tower.

5. (Previously Presented) The latch according to claim 2 wherein the plunger biasing device is a spiral spring.

6. (Previously Presented) The latch according to claim 2 wherein the detent device has two opposite ends each of which has a projection which fits in a respective recess on the housing.

7. (Previously Presented) The latch according to claim 2 wherein the secondary pawl has a first end engageable with the frame when the secondary pawl is in the closed position and a second end opposite the first end and wherein the detent device includes a projection which engages the second end of the secondary pawl when the secondary pawl slides between the closed position and the open position.

8. (Previously Presented) The latch according to claim 1 wherein a face of the main pawl is engageable with the keeper, and the face of the main pawl which is engageable with the keeper is shaped such that the main pawl retracts against the force of the main pawl biasing device so as to permit the closure member to be slammed into a latched position.

9. (Previously Presented) The latch according to claim 1 further comprising a secondary pawl biasing device for biasing the secondary pawl toward the closed position.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously Presented) The latch according to claim 1 wherein the latch further comprises a handle biasing device which biases the handle to the closed position.

12. (Previously Presented) The latch according to claim 11 wherein the handle biasing device is a spiral spring.

13. (Original) The latch according to claim 1 in combination with a vehicle wherein the keeper is on an internal subframe of the vehicle.

14. (Original) The combination according to claim 13 wherein the closure member is a door.

15. (Original) The combination according to claim 14 wherein the closure member is a load floor of the vehicle.